





This is the *French* utterance of the great idea which is pressing more and more on the consciousness of the age; viz; that society is verily guilty of *making* the crimes it punishes; and that a wise legislation should be directed to the *prevention* of crime. Strong faith in the redeeming power of love is shown in every page. The most hardened criminals, in their recklessness and sin, are represented as having a soft place in some corner of the heart, to be melted by "kind words, so short to speak, but whose echo is endless." This idea is rapidly passing from mouth to mouth, and from nation to nation. It comes to us not only in the form of sermons and essays, but in novels, dramas, and songs. When a prophecy is so universal, it is near its fulfillment.

## REMINISCENCES OF TRAVEL.

LETTER I.

MY DEAR FRIEND.—In 1821, I visited the city of Washington, and passed into Virginia, where I enjoyed an agreeable visit, some of the time in cities, and some at a plantation. The proprietor had a large number of slaves, but I did not, at that time, take interest enough in the subject to inquire how many. I never thought of going to their quarters, or looking into one of their cabins. All that I saw of them was at the work in the field, in the setting in the houses, or occasionally running up and down to the neighboring houses. In this case, they usually called a *hired hand*, not so far that they could keep a conversation, in which they contrived to introduce a great deal of *adult fattery*, a thing which I have since learned by information, and might have been known by reflection, to be characteristic of the southern slaves, as much as of the courters and dependents of feudal and oriental despots. To confound the truth, the brutal obsequiousness, and abject submission of the slaves, pleased me. To be followed, flattered, and called "young massa," was quite delightful, administered as it did, a delicious nourishment to the strongest evils of my nature. I walked more elastic, rode more gallantly, and felt an increased flow of spirits. This was only the effect of slavery that I knew or cared to know. Had my lot in life happened to lead me at that time to a permanent connection with the slaves, I might now, instead of being a humble and compassionate abolitionist, have been a haughty and cruel slave master; sacrificing the rights, bodies, and souls of my fellow-men at the shrine of luxury and pride, and threatening with the Preston and Hammonds, death to those who presumed to reason or to pray. I well remember that I came home with profound, propertous, and mischievous notions of the treatment due to my fellow-slaves, employed as domestic servants; and I have reason to fear that I exerted a pernicious influence upon some of my friends in the North, to whom I imparted those notions, citing for their imitation the language used by Virginians to their slaves.

"Then what is man, and what does not blush,  
And hang his head to think himself a man?"

I undertake not to settle the old question between necessity and free will; nor to determine whether human necessity overcomes by reason of ignorance and the force of custom; but it is perfectly clear that there do make a wide difference in the moral quality of actions. *Sai* "verily believed he was doing God's service," and the Christian master who follows in the wake of the mob which *Sai* headed, died, crying, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." Certainly, if I were to become a slaveholder now, it would be a crime of a very different die from what it would under the circumstances above mentioned. Alexander found, in his march, a people called the *Abhi*, whom he pronounced "the jistest of barbarians." They lived on meat, and never went to war except in self-defense. A few degrees south of them were the *Bactri*, who were always at war, and lived on plunder. Are the individuals of these two tribes to be judged for acts of violence and rapine by the same standard, and visited with the same penalties?

The same *Bactri* kept dogs, which they called "sepulchral dogs," for the purpose of destroying their aged and infirm relatives. The *Congos* and *Hottentots* put to death an aged descendant, while the Chinese put to death a son or daughter who lifts a hand against parents, or speaks disrespectfully to them. But on the other hand, they consider infandie with awful indifference, and the government provides that carts shall go about every morning in *Pekin*, to collect the bodies of the innocents and bury them without the walls. The polished Athenians, and the generous Landeronians did not scruple to commit the same revolting crime. In what are called Christian and civilized nations, to rob or murder, is hanging matter, but to get up a war in one of those nations, or between them, and injure a hundred thousand for the sake of maintaining an injurious party in power, or robbing a province, and "burning churches" is glorious, and deserving of the name of *war*.

## Anti-Slavery Items.

Mr. W. H. Channing delivered a discourse at the medical college, in this city, on Sunday last, in which, after speaking of the mutual relations and duties, which divine wisdom has ordained, and established among the nations of men, he proceeded to give a concise and comprehensive view of the history of the foreign policy of the United States, in respect to the republic of Mexico, and the acquisition of Texas. It was listened to with profound attention. It was the first time that we ever heard religious principle applied, in the pulpit, in a calm, impartial, and dispassionate manner, to a great practical question of the day.

The indications on all sides leave it no longer doubtful, that it will be the *position* of Congress and the country, John Tyler, upon it, and the "corporal of the guard" are determined to make the *Woodrow* out for our country, in the old New Hampshire Gazette. So some internal evidence, and so say the papers. The cabinet is said to be divided upon the subject, but this is contradicted. Tyler will push it at the risk of discrediting himself.

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